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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,670	08/05/2003	Theresa M. Miale	38602.00002.CON1	1791
7590	10/06/2005		EXAMINER	
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP P.O. Box 919092 San Diego, CA 92191-9092			SHAW, ELIZABETH ANNE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3644	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/635,670	MIALE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Elizabeth A. Shaw	3644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 32-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leader et al (5,113,793). Leader et al show an animal transport unit 1 comprising a substantially polygonal frame 15 capable of surrounding a large animal and capable of being configured in a substantially planar orientation, see fig. 3. A removable support sheet 19 is detachably connected to the frame 15 and extends substantially across the frame 15 and having a plurality of wheels 7, 8, 10, 11 attached to the frame 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leader et al in view of Gordon (6,913,271). Leader et al do not show the use of a securing belt for securing the animal to the support sheet. Gordon teaches an animal transport 20 having a securing belt 62 with a quick release fastener 65. With respect to claims 33 and 34, to use the securing belt of Gordon with the transport of Leader et al

would have been obvious to one skilled in the art in order to prevent the animal from sliding within the transport and possibly injuring itself or injuring itself further.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group II in the reply filed on July 14, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the Examiner has not met the required burden for demonstrating the necessity of restriction and election of species. This is not found persuasive because the restriction and election of species requires a further search in new areas in order to cover the claimed subject matter. As for the issue of the inclusion of method claims with Group II, the method claims are drawn to the same structural invention as the apparatus claims and therefore would be searched together. The method claims could have been restricted out but were left in to at least minimally expedite prosecution.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

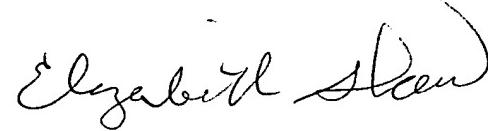
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Included for further reference are: Schichtl (627,535), Stubbs (6,070,555), Labrecque et al (6,196,975) and Bogner et al (6,425,347).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth A. Shaw whose telephone number is 571-272-6908. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 571-272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Elizabeth A. Shaw
Examiner
Art Unit 3644

September 26, 2005



TERI PHAM LUU
SUPERVISORY
PRIMARY EXAMINER